



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 81696PCTUS
Customer No. 23685

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
GEORGE M. KAUFFMAN)
Serial No.: 10/727,076) Group Art Unit: 2822
Filed: December 2, 2003) Examiner: Neil Prasad
For: PROTECTIVE DEVICE) Confirmation No. 6023

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants disclose the following information:

1. U.S. Patent No. 6,636,407, inventor Ryman, issued October 21, 2003;
2. U.S. Patent No. 6,236,551, inventors Jones et al., issued May 22, 2001;
3. U.S. Patent No. 6,115,227, inventors Jones et al., issued September 5, 2000; and
4. U.S. Patent No. 6,061,223, inventors Jones et al., issued May 9, 2000.

Copies of the above-identified documents are not being provided with this paper since the documents are U.S. patents, for which copies are not required. In addition, all of the above documents are listed on the enclosed PTO Form PTO/SB/08A. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the enclosed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the enclosed forms.

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This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better prior art exists and does not constitute an admission that the enclosed documents constitute "prior art."

Applicants reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the enclosed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,

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